

Claims:

1 1. A system for sending out-of-band (OOB) service
2 information from a service provider, the system comprising:
3 a point of deployment module which includes,
4 a processor for processing the OOB service
5 information from a service provider, constructing OOB
6 transport stream (TS) packets using the OOB service
7 information and sending the OOB TS packets to a set-top box
8 using a transport stream channel; and
9 wherein the set-top box includes a processor for
10 processing the OOB TS packets.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the point of
2 deployment module further includes a buffer for storing the
3 OOB TS packets.

1 3. The System of claim 2, wherein the point of
2 deployment module sends the OOB TS packets between two
3 consecutive transport stream packets of an original in-
4 bound transport stream.

1 4. A method of sending out-of-band (OOB) service
2 information from a service provider between a data module a
3 host device, the method comprising the steps of:

4 (a) receiving the out-of-band service information at
5 the data module;

6 (b) constructing OOB transport stream (TS) packets

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7 using the OOB service information;

8 (c) inserting the OOB TS packets into a gap between
9 two consecutive TS packets of the original TS packets; and

10 (d) receiving the OOB TS packets at the host device.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the data module is
2 a point of deployment module.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the host is a set-
2 top box.

1 7. A data module for use with a host device, the data
2 module comprising:

3 a processor for processing out-of-band (OOB) service
4 information, constructing OOB transport stream (TS) packets
5 using the OOB service information and sending the OOB TS
6 packets to a host device using a transport stream channel.

1 8. The data module of claim 7, further including a
2 buffer for storing the OOB TS packets.

1 9. The data module of claim 8, wherein the data module
2 sends the OOB TS packets between two consecutive transport
3 stream packets of an original in-bound transport stream.

1 10. The data module of claim 7, wherein the data
2 module is selected from the group consisting of a point of
3 deployment module, wireless data interface appliance,
4 smartcard, personal computer or internet interface
5 appliance.

1 11. The data module of claim 7, wherein the host
2 device is a set-top box.

1 12. A host device for use with a data module, the
2 host comprising:
3 a processor for processing out-of-band (OOB) service
4 information, wherein the OOB service information is
5 received from OOB transport stream (TS) packets sent by the
6 data module.

1 13. The host device of claim 12, wherein the host is
2 a set-top box.

1 14. The host device of claim 13, wherein the
2 processor is further adapted for receiving the OOB TS
3 packets between two consecutive transport stream packets of
4 an original in-bound transport stream.

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